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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: FIN OTRA ASEC OREP (WILSON, CHARLES N.) MASS PK  
SUBJ: AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SHAMIM ON THE ALR-69 ISSUE

1. (S) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THERE FOLLOWS A REPORT OF CONGRESSMAN CHARLES N. WILSON'S NOVEMBER 3 MEETING WITH AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SHAMIM, IN WHICH SHAMIM STATED THAT GOP WOULD NOT ACCEPT DELIVERY OF F-16'S, INCLUDING SIX DUE TO ARRIVE IN DECEMBER, UNLESS THEY ARE EQUIPPED WITH ALR-69. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER SHAMIM WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF GOP. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOP HAS SAID NOTHING TO US ABOUT THIS IN ANY OTHER CHANNEL AND THAT SHAMIM DID NOT TAKE THIS POSITION IN OCTOBER 26 DISCUSSION WITH THE AMBASSADOR. SHAMIM, WE WOULD NOTE, DOES NOT BELONG TO PRESIDENT ZIA'S INNER CIRCLE. WE RECOMMEND THAT USG NOT SEEK TO CLARIFY THIS ISSUE WITH GOP BUT THAT DELIVERY OF DECEMBER TRANCHE OF F-16'S PROCEED AS PLANNED UNLESS AND UNTIL GOP INFORMS US OTHERWISE. END SUMMARY.

3. IN NOVEMBER 3 MEETING, AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SHAMIM TOLD CONGRESSMAN CHARLES N. WILSON (D.TEX) THAT PAKISTAN WOULD NOT ACCEPT DELIVERY OF F-16'S IF THEY ARE NOT EQUIPPED WITH ALR-69'S AND SAID THAT THIS INCLUDES THE SIX AIRCRAFT SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN PAKISTAN DECEMBER 2. (COMMENT: WE TAKE THIS TO MEAN THAT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE AGREEMENT ON THE ALR-69, RATHER THAN INSTALLATION OF THE ALR-69, WHICH WOULD DELAY DELIVERY SEVERAL MONTHS. END COMMENT.) THE PAKISTAN AIR FORCE, HE EXPLAINED, INTENDS TO DEFEND PAK AIRSPACE AGAINST SOVIET AND AFGHAN INCURSIONS AND IS PREPARED TO ENGAGE SOVIET/AFGHAN AIRCRAFT. HE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, PERMIT THE PAF TO ENGAGE THE AFGHAN/SOVIETS WITHOUT THE ALR-69. DOWNING OF AN F-16 WOULD STRIKE AT THE CREDIBILITY OF THE GOP AND RAISE DOUBTS IN THE PEOPLES' MINDS ABOUT THE GOP'S ABILITY TO DEFEND PAKISTAN. CONGRESSMAN WILSON PROMISED TO CHECK INTO STATUS OF THE ALR-69 ISSUE UPON RETURNING TO WASHINGTON.

4. SHAMIM SAID THAT PAKISTAN HAS BEEN SEEKING TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. FOR FOUR YEARS BUT THAT AS

*JW ✓*  
*file Cong Charles Wilson*  
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RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED, THERE HAVE BEEN A SERIES OF PIN-PRICKS. THE U.S. AIR FORCE HAD RECOMMENDED THE F-16 MODEL STANDARD IN USAF AND UNDER SECRETARY BUCKLEY HAD ALSO OFFERED THIS AIRCRAFT. THE NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, HAD RECENTLY TURNED PAKISTAN DOWN ON THE ALR-69 DESPITE THE FACT THAT PAKISTANI AIR FORCE IS COMMITTED TO THE SECURITY OF F-16 TECHNOLOGY. THE AIR FORCE WOULD LOSE FACE WERE THE STANDARD EQUIPMENT DENIED. HIS INSISTENCE HAD PERSUADED PRESIDENT ZIA TO AGREE TO SEEK THE F-16 SEVERAL YEARS AGO DESPITE THE FACT THAT SOUR US-PAK RELATIONS AT THAT TIME SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT PURCHASE WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. EVEN NOW THE POWERFUL FRENCH LOBBY IS SAYING THAT THE DEAL WAS A MISTAKE AND THAT PAKISTAN SHOULD PURCHASE THE MIRAGE 2000, WHICH IS MORE EXPENSIVE AND LESS CAPABLE THAN THE F-16.

5. SHAMIM SAID THAT THERE CONTINUE TO BE SOVIET/AFGHAN INCURSIONS INTO PAKISTAN'S AIRSPACE. ONE HAD OCCURRED AS RECENTLY AS NOVEMBER 1 WHEN AN AFGHAN AIRCRAFT HAD PENETRATED NINE MILES INTO PAKISTAN. THERE HAD BEEN 91 SO FAR THIS YEAR. PAKISTAN DOES NOT PRESENTLY HAVE THE EQUIPMENT TO REACT. IT WOULD MEAN SENDING F-16'S--I.E., MIG-19'S--AGAINST MIG 21'S AND MIG 23'S. IN ADDITION, THE SOVIETS USUALLY HAD AN "AWACS" TYPE AIRCRAFT SOME 50 MILES WITHIN AFGHANISTAN DIRECTING THE MIG-21'S AND 23'S AND GUNSHIP HELO'S (HIND) USED IN THESE OPERATIONS.

6. SHAMIM OBSERVED THAT THE SOVIETS ARE SERIOUS IN AFGHANISTAN AND THAT THEY ARE PURSUING A LONG RANGE PROGRAM. THEY STARTED MANY YEARS AGO, BEGINNING, FOR EXAMPLE, TO PENETRATE THE AFGHAN ARMED FORCES AND GOVERNMENT. THEY ARE NOT WORRIED ABOUT MANPOWER LOSSES. THEY HAD, HE OBSERVED, LOST SOME 20 MILLION DURING WORLD WAR II.

7. SHAMIM INDICATED THAT PAKISTAN NEEDS AN AIRBORNE ELECTRONICS AND RADAR CAPABILITY SINCE THE WESTERN PART OF AFGHANISTAN IS HILLY AND THEREFORE GROUND BASED RADAR AND ELECTRONICS IS NOT COMPLETELY EFFECTIVE. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE GOP WOULD CONSIDER PURCHASING A SQUADRON OF A-10'S IF THE BUDGET ALLOWED AND IF THE USAF PURSUES THE A-10 AWF/LANTRIN CONCEPT. SPIERS

END OF MESSAGE

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